

"Spread not the green of the pleasures of the
senses before
me. What does the brute know but to bend to
the grass?
Take away my desires, feed me with
devotion, and give
me a drink of good sense, O God Kudala
Sangama!"

He did not however believe in penance and
torture in
the name of discipline. He remembered
that some
famous devotees had led normal lives as
householders.

The denial of our faculties is attended
with danger.
The five senses trouble always. Did
Siriya and
Changale cease to live as husband and
wife? Did the
Sindhu Ballala couple give up the joys of
married
life? Sin for God's devotee is in lusting for
another's
woman, another's money. Not only was
mortification
of the flesh unnecessary. It obstructed
spiritual
growth. When you think you mortify
yourself you
really mortify the divine in yourself.
There was no
one who tortured the body and the mind
and touched
God's feet. To say there was any such
would destroy.
The pain of God's devotee was God's pain.
So also
ceremonial purification is no good unless
the will to
purity goes with it.

"Brethren, bathing in the stream and washing
yourselves
bathe and wash yourselves of the sin of living
with strange
women, of the lust for another's money. Wash
yourselves
of these. My Lord ICudala Sangama, if they
give up not
these but bathe in the stream, the stream
will have run
in vain for them."

Basavanna thought of his body as his

temple for
his God. Those who had money might
build temples
for God; what should a man without
money do? He
can make his body as a temple, the head
being the
pinnacle of gold. With the fixed temple,
others may
tamper, not with this moving one. But
this implies